Daily Report

Latin America

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Group of Six Initiates Meeting in Buenos Aires

PY212346 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2028 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (TELAM)—The meeting of the "Group of Six" has begun at the Argentine Foreign Ministry. The gathering, designed to discuss the peace initiative for the five continents, was presided over by President Alfonsin's personal representative, Jorge Sabato.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the governments of Greece, Tanzania, Sweden, Mexico, India, Argentina and two representatives of the so-called "Parliamentary Action Committee" which is comprised of parliamentary representatives from several foreign countries.

The objective of this meeting is to draw up the agenda of the meeting that the six chiefs of state of the Group of Six will hold at the United Nations to discuss disarmament. This meeting, which will take place in New York late in May, will also be attended by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin.

Representatives Conclude Work

PY241522 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1916 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (TELAM)—The Argentine Foreign Ministry has reported that the personal representatives of the chiefs of state who comprise the so-called Group of Six ended their work at noon today. They met for 3 days at the Argentine Foreign Ministry to discuss the peace initiative for the five continents.

The Group of Six, which is also called the New Delhi Group because its first meeting was held in that capital, is made up of President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, former President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, and Prime Ministers Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden, Andreas Papandreou of Greece, and Rajiv Gandhi of India.

The personal representatives of the chiefs of state, together with two officials of the Parliamentary Action Committee, drew up the proposal that the six chiefs of state will take to the 29 May UN meeting that will discuss disarmament.

The final document of the meeting is almost finished, and it will be handed over to President Raul Alfonsin tomorrow morning.

The six presidents have formally agreed to pursue the peace initiative, which includes a nuclear moratorium and disarmament verification, adopted at the meeting they held in Ixtapa, Mexico, on 6-7 August 1986. A 17-point plan was released on that occasion, and President Raul Alfonsin summarized its objectives by stating that all of us must strive for our right to live. All of us must strive to give peace and survival a chance.

The U.S. State Department rejected the initiative of the six chiefs of state, supporting President Ronald Reagan's theory that a proposal for a total nuclear moratorium would neither increase stability nor reduce the risk of war.

The chiefs of state have continued their negotiations through their personal representatives, and the United States and the USSR have moved toward the first stage designed to reduce nuclear armaments. The situation has changed, and it is now closer to the position adopted by the Group of Six than to the attitude the United States had assumed.

It has been reported that, according to the conclusions reached by the presidential representatives in Buenos Aires, the issue of the verification of nuclear tests as a way of confirming compliance with several treaties signed in this respect will be brought up at the UN meeting.

C.A. Foreign Ministers Meeting 'Failure'

PA250447 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0355 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The fifth meeting of the Esquipulas II Agreements Executive Commission, comprising the Central American foreign ministers, was a failure. The meeting concluded this evening in Guatemala City, but no final resolution was issued.

The Central American foreign ministers ended their talks on weapons verification and the Central American conflict at 2100, 12 hours after beginning the talks at a Guatemala City hotel.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said the Honduran Government's refusal to request the withdrawal of the 3,200 U.S. soldiers from that country and Honduras' demand that Nicaragua withdraw charges against the former at the International Court of Justice in The Hague prevented the drafting of a resolution.

The foreign ministers, who did announce that "some progress was made," declared themselves in permanent session through 7 April, when they will continue their talks here to reach an understanding.

Cuba

Commentary Scorns U.S. Congress on Blockade

FL250304 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] There's been a lot of noise in the U.S. Congress about Cuba in recent days. The fuss has been motivated by an amendment to the trade law designed to reinforce the blockade against our country. In the amendment, already approved, the congressmen ask the Executive Branch to make a study to determine how the blockade might be violated or ignored. This deserves some comment because it does not fail to be surprising.

In the first place, it is difficult to imagine how a blockade that has been and is the most severe and total in the history of international relations can be reinforced. As Fidel has pointed out, the blockade not only bans all trade between the United States and Cuba, medicine included, but also extends to everybody else in Washington's unceasing, shameless, and vile persecution of all our country's economic activities.

Second, it is even more surprising that this is taking place after almost 3 decades and during Ronald Reagan's administration. Can anyone think that this government has been generously remiss in applying the blockade against Cuba? To even think so would be ridiculous.

As Fidel explained to Congressman Mervyn Dymally, no one knows how many people in the United States are engaged at present in collecting information about all our economic and commercial activities with the West to try to prevent us from selling our products and to even hinder Cuba's credits and the refinancing of its debt.

Consequently, there's a rancid smell about the anti-Cuban amendment in Congress. It is true that Cuba has fought the blockade and is doing and will do everything it can to get around it. As we have declared, we see the struggle against the blockade as legitimate and moral. However, those who think that we can score points in this area because of American carelessness, particularly under this administration, are mistaken.

Raul Castro Decorates Vietnamese Officers

FL222114 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister, has presided over the solemn ceremony in which Major Generals (Le Tan Ban) and (Tan Hy Phu) of the Vietnamese People's Army were decorated with the Ernesto Che Guevara Order and the Internationalist Combatant Medal, Second Class, for their contribution to our country's preparation for defense.

Both generals will soon return to their country after having shared with us multiple practical experiences regarding the people's struggle, one of the integral sources of Cuban military doctrine.

PDRY Industry Minister Ends Official Visit

EA241420 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Summary] Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, member of the Central Committee and minister of industry, trade and supply, ended his official visit to Cuba this evening with the signing in Havana of a protocol on trade cooperation. The protocol was signed for Cuba by Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of foreign trade.

Dr 'Uthman also had a meeting with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Political Bureau and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, through whom he conveyed greetings to the Cuban leadership. They also discussed the strengthening of relations between the parties and peoples of their two countries.

Soto Receives Malagasy Interior Minister

FL232154 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Lionel Soto, PCC Central Committee secretary, has received a party and government delegation from Madagascar headed by Augustin Ampy Portos, minister of interior.

During the meeting, which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, matters of interest to the two parties were discussed. The Malagasy delegation is here by invitation of the Cuban Ministry of Interior.

GDR Official Visits Santiago de Cuba Province

FL242112 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Guenter Wendland, general prosecuting attorney of the GDR, has arrived in Santiago de Cuba on a visit to discuss agreements and cooperation basically involving professional improvement.

Ostorio Fong, second PCC secretary in Santiago de Cuba Province, and (Deli Alvarez), representing the provincial attorney's office, received the visitor, who is accompanied by Ramon de la Cruz, attorney general of the Republic of Cuba.

During his 2 days in the cradle of the revolution, Wendland will meet with the directors of the provincial attorney's office. He will also tour several places of historical and tourist interest in the city.

Trade Union Officials Meeting Opens in Havana

FL230052 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] A meeting of secretaries and heads of trade union organization departments from socialist countries began today. This is the first time this kind of meeting has been held in Cuba. It is slated to end on Thursday.

The event is taking place at the Ernst Thaelmann Hall of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] with the attendance of nearly 30 delegates from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, the DPRK, and Cuba. The welcoming speech was delivered by Rene Penalver, member of the PCC Central Committee.

[Begin Penalver recording] We will follow the discussions here and be receptive to everything that might have a positive effect on our work. [end recording]

A report on Cuba as the host country was given by Joaquin Bernal Camero, member of the PCC Central Committee and the CTC Secretariat, who spoke of the work and the results obtained since the 52d CTC council in 1986 with regard to the application of a correct approach to select, place, and promote cadres.

CTC's Escandel Closes Meeting

FL250157 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The meeting of trade union secretaries for organization of socialist countries ended today. It was held for 3 days at the CTC as part of the consultation coordination program for the 1987-90 period approved in Prague 2 years ago. Nearly 30 delegates from nine socialist countries participated in the meeting. Some aspects of the next meeting of the secretaries were discussed on the last day of sessions. It will be held in Warsaw in 1990. It was decided that the main topic to be discussed then will be the work of the trade unions in the present restructuring and in the faster pace of socioeconomic development of socialist countries.

The Soviet delegation had words of praise and appreciation for the CTC for organizing the event. Jesus Escandel, member of the CTC Secretariat, closed the meeting.

[Begin Escandel recording] The minutes approved will help enrich the basic activities of organization and internal life for our common effort. The conferees also examined and exchanged criteria on cadre policy which will help to make this decisive aspect of trade union activity more perfect. [end recording]

CEMA Countries Sign Protocol on Nickel Plant

FL250120 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2152 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Representatives of seven socialist countries today signed a protocol on the construction and installation of the Las Camariocas nickel plant, CEMA's first large-scale multilateral project in Latin America. The documents were signed by government representatives with the rank of deputy ministers of ferrous and non-ferrous metalworking and mining industries from Hungary, the GDR, Romania, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, the CSSR, and Cuba.

One of the accords reached by the delegation heads concerned the establishment of a group of technical-operational experts and a system of quarterly reporting on the progress of the project beginning in April.

Nickel-cobalt is one of our country's main exports and its production will go up with the new Las Camariocas plant, in the construction of which seven CEMA countries will actively participate.

Haiti

Theodore Comments on Colonel Paul Case, Wages

FL182242 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] The economic sanctions the U.S. Congress is considering taking against Haiti are economic aggression, a form of imperialism, said Rene Theodore, secretary general of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH], during a news conference yesterday morning at PUCH party headquarters on the Rue Champ de Mars. The news conference was held on the occasion of the 2d anniversary of the end of the PUCH exile.

Mr Theodore compared Haiti's political situation to that of Panama. According to Theodore, the political situation of the two countries, which are both in Central America [as heard], is due to the meddling of foreigners in these countries' affairs. Theodore continued: There is some truth to the news coming out of Panama, because the Panamanians were not happy about the accusations made by the U.S. Government to the effect that General Noriega was involved in drug trafficking.

Theodore added that the accusations made against Jean Claude Paul and against Noriega are insults to the sovereignty and dignity of both Haiti and Panama. He said that according to reports he had, the commander of the Casernes Dessalines Battalion had not been trained in U.S. military academies. Let's listen.

[Begin Theodore recording, in progress] ...the American court system, which has American jurisdiction [words indistinct] and distribution. It is American territory that is affected by the American courts. Now, in the case of Jean Claude Paul, just like Noriega, this American court

system went and indicted and tried citizens of another country. Furthermore, it did so with extradition in mind, to the point where Spain sent a note, allegedly, on its willingness to take in Noriega should he become an exile, on the condition that the Americans not ask for extradition. It is as if American jurisdiction were worldwide. No country can accept such a thing. We ourselves are not willing to consider American jurisdiction as extending to Haitian territory, because we are a sovereign nation. Thus, it is for reasons of principle that we state the problem this way.

Something else: When you say in defense of Jean Claude Paul, in order for me to defend Jean Claude Paul I would have to be familiar with the dossier on Jean Claude Paul. I would have to know what Jean Claude Paul has been charged with here. We would have to be his lawyers.

We are not Jean Claude Paul's lawyers. We do not know Jean Claude Paul. We are not familiar with the dossier on Jean Claude Paul in connection with drugs. We are not the judiciary. Even if (?there were) such a dossier here, they would keep it secret. It is not we who would know about it, because there would be the secrecy of the institution [words indistinct].

So don't talk to me about defending or not defending Jean Claude Paul. Our position on this is based on principle and corresponds to the idea we have of the Haitian people's dignity, of our country's dignity. This is why the Panamanians reacted the same way to the charge against Noriega. This is also why 2 days after I took a position on this matter in a telephone interview over Radio Havana, Fidel Castro said something similar about Panama. And this was without there having been any contact, or any consultation, or anything else, either between the Panamanian party and us, or between the Cuban party and us, or between the Panamanian and Cuban parties.

The reason was that a series of objective criteria led us to evaluate the situation in more or less the same way, and to react in the same way, in the direction of dignity. What happens to them today might happen to us tomorrow. That is why we are reacting the way we are. [end recording]

Answer questions by journalists on the salary deputies have asked for, the PUCH leader said that it was scandalous, truly a public scandal, for the people's deputies to ask to be paid $5,000 to defend the Haitian people's interests. Let's listen.

[Begin Theodore recording, in progress] ...(?so poor) to be sprouting a number of civil servants, a number of men who are allegedly here to represent the Haitian people and who are seeking, instead, to live in leisure, to benefit, at the expense of the people.

In a way, again, we find this a normal reaction from the deputies and senators, because, after all, they were not put into office by the Haitian people. They are people who put themselves in office. They probably negotiated themselves into a job. They are people who have become senators and deputies without the Haitian people's vote. Thus it is normal for them to seek to make their positions as profitable as possible; for them to consider neither the people nor the country's development in asking for this kind of a salary. (?If) they had to honestly and conscientiously formulate a budget and then defend the salaries of high-ranking officials such as the president, the ministers, the secretaries of state, the deputies, and the senators in the chamber of deputies, with the entire Haitian people watching [words indistinct].

Any readjustment must be made on the basis of a new fiscal policy and on the basis of true need, in a spirit of national solidarity, so that the way can be cleared for the country, so that we can build our economy ourselves, with our own means and with what foreigners might possibly be willing to contribute, without our sitting back and depending on foreign support the way we are still in the habit of doing to this day.

Another thing: the public administration, which they have as yet not reformed. According to the Constitution, in principle they have 6 month to do this.

[Words indistinct] is it because they were efficient. I myself think that if they were efficient, the current administration would be operating differently. There would not be all these different kinds of vices, all these different kinds of under-the-table deals required to resolve any problem a citizen might have in which the public administration is involved.

All kinds of things citizens need to take care of would be taken care of with dignity and effectively, and would not take so long. Thus, effectiveness is lacking. [end recording]

Assailant of U.S. Embassy Employee Released

FL240340 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] (Joseph Kenol), who last 11 May tried to take an employee of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince hostage, was released at the beginning of this week after 10 months in prison.

The judges, who found (Kenol) guilty, sentenced him to 7 months of forced labor, which was counted as having been served during his 10 months of preventive detention.

The victim, wife of Mr Larry Rossin, who is the political attache at the U.S. Embassy, was stabbed by her aggressor. For his part, he was shot several times in the leg by the Haitian police who had come to arrest him.

New Foreign Ministry Director General Appointed
FL240359 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A new Foreign Ministry director general has been appointed by the president of the Republic. He is Mr (Gasner Coicou). Mr (Coicou) has the rank of ambassador.

Nine Ambassadors Recalled
FL240352 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Nine Haitian ambassadors abroad—the ambassadors to Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Italy, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and the Holy See—have been recalled by the Haitian Government as part of the planned reform of the Haitian foreign service announced by the president of the Republic.

A Foreign Ministry communique states that in conformity with the Constitution, new appointments will become effective and be made public only after the appointees are both approved by the Senate and accepted by the countries to which they are appointed.

Radio Soleil Asks for Casec Election Results
FL240426 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Since letters have been arriving and peasants have been stopping by here, asking for the results of the Casec [Administrative Councils for the Rural Sections] elections held 31 January, we tried to find out what is going on.

The Ministry of Information does not know if the Casec election results have been published. They sent us to the Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for communal affairs. After several phone calls left and right, the communal affairs section sent us to look up in the electoral law the procedure for announcing the results of the elections.

The electoral law said a copy of the results was to be given to the Ministry of the Interior and another to the government, which was then supposed to give it to LE MONITEUR [official gazette] to publish. The people at the Interior Ministry did not know if this had been done. They told us to go ask LE MONITEUR, if we wanted more information.

For its part, LE MONITEUR said that it has not yet published the results of the Casec elections.

What has happened to the electoral machine that the CNG [National Government Council] set up, together with Mr Gilbert's CEP [Provisional Electoral Council]? The new president will soon have been in power 2 months! Why have the results of the Casec elections still not been announced? Everybody claims it isn't his fault. Since the CEP's mandate ended on 7 February, who is now in charge of putting out these results? To whom did Mr Gilbert's CEP give the results to publish?

Explosives, Arms, Marijuana Seized
FL242204 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Soldiers from Casernes Dessalines made a search the night before last in Port-au-Prince. They found several automatic weapons, a number of sticks of dynamite, and some drugs in a house at 74 Rue (Rouille), in the Bel-Air neighborhood.

According to the police, this material belongs to three brothers: (Frantz), (Edwin), and (Ernst Cesar). The police made several arrests, among them Mr (Jocelyn Brochard), who is reportedly a PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party] member.

We will have you listen to Lieutenant (Moravia) and Lieutenant (James) giving details.

[Begin recording] [Speaker] Last night, at the commander's orders, we had to go to several different places. By several different places, I mean two places. According to information the commander had and that he gave us, there were several dangerous individuals who were planning to blow up the city. And maybe not just blow up the city! They wanted to step up their actions nationwide during the night.

So that is why we had to go to the Bel-Air section of town, the Rue (Rouille) area in Bel-Air. When we arrived in Bel-Air, we entered a house where, according to the information we had, there were many individuals with explosives in their possession. There are the explosives, right there on the ground. Everyone can take a look at them. So, we went into the house and found the explosives and two AR-15 rifles you can see on the ground there.

[Words indistinct] where we entered Bel-Air, it seems the men who were there constituted the arm of the organization that was apparently planning to blow up the city last night. Unfortunately for them, we arrived in time to prevent this. All the explosives you see there are made with dynamite. There are those AR-15 rifles, with all the clips you see there on the ground. Each clip holds 20 bullets, and since they are automatics, it looks as if these people were not only prepared to kill any soldier who might show up to take action in the area, but had very precise intentions. It looks as if they were dangerous individuals who are against the Army—not just against the Army but against the established order, against the country!

You can see, in addition to the explosives made out of pieces of PVC Duralon, that there are also a couple of bags of marijuana. This means that these individuals are people whom they dope up. Not only are they obliged to

dope them up when they operate, maybe, depending on the organization they (?are working for)—you know what I mean? Give them some drugs, to stimulate them.

Unfortunately, when we got there we did not find those individuals themselves. We found a couple of women, ladies who lived in the house. Among them is Marie Martha Antoine, who is the aunt of the three men, and Miss (Ketly Cesar), who is their sister.

This man here, standing before you, is a member of the PDCH. What is your name again, my brother? [voice in background: "(Jocelyn Brochard)"] His name is (Jocelyn Brochard).

He admitted to us—and there he is, in front of us. We are not lying about him. See? We aren't lying about him. There he is, present. He told us everything that had happened, in writing and so forth, in the official recording of the incident by a justice of the peace. He made his statement and he agreed to sign it. You see? He agreed to sign the statement. He admitted to us not only that he is a member of the PDCH, but also that he was in collusion with the three men...

[(Brochard), interrupting] I said in my statement that after (Dr Douze) turned over these weapons and ammunition to me, seeing that it was not a matter of peaceful action, I was going to give those weapons and ammunition back to him and then I stayed home. So [words indistinct] it was at 0030 when they came to arrest me. After that, I know nothing, nothing, nothing.

[Reporter] Does that mean that you recognize those weapons?

[(Brochard)] Yes, I had them, those two rifles. After having received them from (Dr Douze), I was going to give them back to him because I could see that it was not a matter of a peaceful action. We are friends of nonviolence. That is what the PDCH professes. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Tell me a little about the men.

[(Ketly Cesar)] They are my brothers, all three of them. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What are their names?

[(Cesar)] (Frantz Cesar), (Ernst Cesar), and (Edwin Cesar). [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Where are they now?

[(Cesar)] Ah, I have no idea, because I was already in bed. And they don't come home early. They must have fled when they saw that the military had arrested us. I don't know because I got out of my class so tired that I went right to bed. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] So how did the dynamite and the weapons get up there on the roof?

[(Cesar)] (?It was last) evening, Sir, while the military were there bringing the stuff down, that I myself saw it for the first time. I don't know anything about this stuff at all, at all, at all! [passage omitted] I can add that it hadn't been there long, because I had cleaned the roof the day before yesterday, and I hadn't seen anything like that. [end recording]

Sylvio Claude Comments

FL242314 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The police discovered a stock of explosives and automatic weapons in a house in the Bel-Air section of Port-au-Prince, on Rue (Rouille), in the evening of 22 March, according to a report seen on television last night. Two American-made assault rifles and several sticks of dynamite were displayed yesterday on television by a Casernes Dessalines officer. [passage omitted]

Mr (Jocelyn Bochard), a PDCH member, is accused of complicity in this affair.

In this connection, PDCH President Sylvio Claude, denying any participation of his party in this affair, says that the PDCH's leaders do not support or approve of subversive movements. Let's listen to Rev Sylvio Claude.

[Begin recording] [Claude, in Creole] Friend, listen to me carefully. I have been struggling in the opposition for 31 years. Sylvio Claude has never yet used firearms. I have never yet considered doing so, either. I cannot seem to bring myself to use weapons. As I am always saying, in politics there are no absolutes. Everything is relative. So perhaps I might find myself in a situation where I might (?decide to use) weapons, but we are not there at present.

What I'm saying is that not only was I not aware of this, I did not even suspect it. If I had suspected it, I would have stopped it. I would have been against it.

A man has a right to have his weapons. That's his business, as long as I'm not giving him the money to buy them or giving them to him myself. I don't have a say in a man having a weapon. But Sylvio Claude will always oppose using weapons either (?in the name of) the PDCH or in favor of the PDCH [words indistinct] because I don't believe in it.

So, as he said in his statement, if I understood him correctly, the weapons were indeed in his possession. However, when he realized that he couldn't use them, because the party's line is a nonviolent one, he gave them back. That's what he said in his statement.

So, the PDCH, as an institution, doesn't know about this. Conceivably, there might be a couple of party members who I don't know about who do know. You could only ask them themselves whether or not they knew about it. As you know, every political party has different wings: the radical wing, the moderate wing, and so forth. [passage omitted]

For example, a group of people left the PDCH because when they suggested we use weapons, I refused. First of all I said: Gentlemen, where are we going to get the money to buy weapons? It's not possible. Second, I said: Supposing I had weapons, where am I going to use them? First of all, you are in a geographical position that does not lend itself to this. You cannot wage guerrilla warfare in Haiti. The only way weapons could be used effectively in Haiti would be if there were a revolt in the Army. And even then... [changes thought] Because let me tell you, last year there was a sergeant—I have (?his) name around here somewhere, on a piece of a paper, but I can't remember it. He is a sergeant. He showed us his card and everything. His name is in my files. He said he often did sentry duty at the mausoleum. He is tall. He came here several times to say that he had (?15) men in the National Palace, and that they could arrest Namphy, and that if I agreed to back them up, to support them, they would agree to do this.

I chased him off. First of all, I felt it was a trap. And even if it had been true, there are ridiculous things... [changes thought] What if they went and tried to do some vile thing and failed? There are ridiculous things that I won't get involved in.

[Words indistinct] save a country. Anybody who wants to save a country should (?work for) something serious. When you get involved in some ridiculous little disorder, you annul yourself. And you go and (?involve) the Haitian people in something that is not right.

[Reporter (Clarens)] Pastor Claude, last night the police said on television that the discovery might be linked to an existing plan to destabilize the government, to create disorder in the country. They talked with Mr (Jocelyn Bochard), who is a high-ranking member of your party. Don't you think that...

[Claude, interrupting] [Words indistinct] he is not a member of the Executive Committee, and even if he were, he was acting on his own.

[(Clarens)] Is there no link, Pastor Claude, between your party...

[Claude, interrupting] No, no, no. Listen, (Clarens), a member of a political party can do whatever he wants. For example, don't you work for the radio? Lots of people do. If someone who works for a radio station goes and steals, is the radio station responsible? Unless the radio station sent him! But assuming it didn't! What if a Radio Metropole employee, for example, has a weapon and goes out into the street and shoots someone. Is Radio Metropole responsible? Is Mr Widmaier [owner of Radio Metropole] responsible? Are you, (Clarens), responsible?

[(Clarens)] So, does this mean that you refuse to accept any responsibility for the discovery of the arms cache made last night?

[Claude] Aren't you listening to me? It is absolutely unthinkable. It isn't even conceivable. Not for Sylvio Claude, and not for the PDCH. Forget about Sylvio Claude! Or the PDCH! Above all, the PDCH is made up of Christians, of preachers! [passage omitted] [end recording]

PNDPH Secretary General's Residence Searched

FL240418 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Soldiers and armed civilians yesterday afternoon searched the residence of Turneb Delpe, who is the secretary general of the PNDPH [National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti].

According to Delpe, they thoroughly searched the house and carted away documents connected with his activities. Delpe talked to us by phone. He will explain exactly what happened.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Turneb Delpe, as a member of the PNDPH, can you tell me why you have called us this evening?

[Delpe] While I was in the streets, I heard over Radio Haiti-Inter that my house had just been searched. They searched my house from top to bottom. When I called home, I learned that some 11 armed individuals, both civilians and military personnel, had gone and searched the house from top to bottom. They were headed by an officer and accompanied by a judge. (?I believe) it was the judge of the Section (S) court and, if I am not mistaken, his name is Judge (Larochelle). I learned that they had carted away all the documents I had at home, among them the manuscript of a book I was planning to publish.

[Reporter] In your opinion, why would the police go and search your house today?

[Delpe] Well, I cannot see why they would do this. The only crime that I maybe committed was to have participated in the struggle that led to 7 February 1986. I was imprisoned under the Jean-Claude Duvalier regime. I was arrested and spent 6 months in jail. I underwent all the mistreatment anyone could have undergone in jail (?during the period preceding) 7 February. Since then, I have been here in the country. I have been engaging in political activity within a framework of legality, within the framework of the Constitution.

Also, recently, I was to have left on 30 December. When I arrived at the airport, I found that there was an order of interdiction against me to prevent me from leaving the country. They confiscated my passport. However, later, not too long ago, in fact this week—although they never called me in before any investigating committee, so that I would know why they had seized my passport—the prime minister announced that the interdiction had been lifted, that I could leave the country, and that I could have my passport back. My lawyer called me this morning to tell me that he thought that I would be getting my passport back tomorrow.

So all these things have been done. The prohibition on leaving the country was lifted and I am supposed to be able to get my passport back. And then today they come and search my house! I'm not saying they don't have a right to search, but if they were going to do it, you would think they would have already done it. How come now, after 3 months—if they were investigating, if their investigation came up with nothing, why come and search today?

[Reporter] Delpe, from what you have said, from 30 December, when they seized your passport, to today, when they raided your house, has your life been normal? Haven't you ever been pressured?

[Delpe] No, not at all. I have been going about my business normally inside Haitian territory. The only thing was that I could not leave the country.

[Reporter] How about your people, your relatives at home—what happened to them? How are they?

[Delpe] Well, I called them. They're fine. The only incident involved a person who had come to see my mother and father. This person doesn't necessarily know me well. The party entering to undertake the search ran into this person first, and asked him for me. The person said he didn't know me, that it was my parents he knew. They pressured the person, saying he had to tell them where I was, that he would see what would happen to him if he didn't tell them where I was, and so forth.

My father was on the balcony and came down and asked them what was going on. That is when they said they had come to carry out a search and they went in and searched. They gathered up all my documents to take away and then left.

[Reporter] What are you going to do now?

[Delpe] I am going to contact my lawyer again, inform him of what happened, and take inventory and make a list of everything they took from my house. My lawyer will take whatever legal steps are required to recover all my documents.

[Reporter] What kind of uniforms did people tell you the military who went to your house were wearing?

[Delpe] There were some 10 or 11 people. Some were in civilian clothing and others in uniform. And there was a judge accompanying them.

[Reporter] Were they dressed in blue or olive?

[Delpe] I think it was military personnel in blue uniforms. [end recording]

El Salvador

ARENA: PDC, PCN Planning Election Fraud

PA241952 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2311 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The leadership of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) has charged that the ruling Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the National Conciliation Party [PCN] are trying to steal the elections.

ARENA leader Roberto D'Aubuisson warned that "if a maneuver is finally carried out we will rise," and he urged the Army High Command "to stop this plan in the name of the homeland."

ARENA, virtual winner of the last Sunday's legislative and municipal elections, asserted that "there is a fraudulent plan to reduce the number of deputies" it won.

The Central Elections Council (CCE), El Salvador's foremost electoral body, acknowledged ARENA's victory a few hours after the balloting closed but has not yet released overall official results.

Three days after the elections to replace the 60 deputies to the Legislative Assembly and 262 municipal councilmen, the CCE is tallying the votes municipality by municipality to provide official figures.

D'Aubuisson ruled out any U.S. complicity in the "boycotting" of the vote tally to deny that ARENA won a majority.

According to D'Aubuisson, Mario Samayoa, CCE president and leader of the PDC; PCN representative Arturo Mendez Azahar; and other government officials are involved in the fraud plan.

The ARENA leadership claimed that "dilatory tactics by the PDC and PCN representatives have blocked the final vote tally."

D'Aubuisson said that if the PDC manages to carry out any maneuver "we will rise and who knows what will happen." He added that "we will point an accusing finger at the gentlemen of the High Command for not preventing this fraud."

In the meantime, PDC leader Guillermo Guevara Lacayo and PCN leader Hugo Carrillo denied the charges by the ARENA Executive Committee and labeled them "a campaign to create a fraud."

Guevara, who is president of the Legislative Assembly, said that "we admit that ARENA garnered more votes individually, but this does not mean that we will allow anyone to deprive us of what we have legally won." [passage omitted]

Farabundo Marti Youth Official Interviewed

AU231259 Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian 22 Mar 88 p 3

[Report on interview with Antonio Martinez, WFDY secretary and member of the Youth Executive Committee of the FMLN, by Kudrinka Kudrinova—place, date not given]

[Text] Antonio Martinez, WFDY secretary, member of the Youth Executive Committee of the FMLN, and member of the FMLN Political-Diplomatic Commission, is currently visiting our country as a guest of the Bulgarian youth and Komsomol. A representative of our editorial board conducted the following interview with him:

[Kudrinova] Can you describe the stand of the FMLN on the elections held last Sunday in El Salvador?

[Martinez] We neither called for a boycott of the elections, nor did we declare ourselves against them taking place. The stand of the FMLN is against that part of the U.S. plan dealing with the present regime under Duarte's presidency which is supposed to be described as "democratic." Therefore, we cannot support this regime and are pursuing our struggle. Part of this struggle is the appeal for a nationwide strike in the transportation sector. The strike began 2 days prior to the elections and paralyzed 95 percent of the country. It is the second strike of this kind in 1988. We had seven such strikes in 1987. Such actions are of tremendous importance, because they not only paralyze the nationwide transportation network, but also international highways passing through El Salvador, and therefore cause serious economic problems for the government. The success of the present strike which marked the recent elections is, in my opinion, sufficiently eloquent as regards the people's mass support.

[Kudrinova] Do possibilities exist for a really fruitful dialogue between the FMLN and the Duarte regime?

[Martinez] We have declared on several occasions that we are in favor of a political settlement of the situation in El Salvador. We have insisted for several years that an end should be put to the war. However, we ask for a just peace, not for the peace of the grave. We have already had three meetings for negotiations with the government—two were held prior to the signing of the Guatemala agreement, and one following this event—but they did not produce any results. The problem is that the Duarte regime is subjected to the constant pressure of the United States, which does not wish a political settlement, but is trying to push the regime toward military conflict. This means more combat, more U.S. assistance to the regime, and so forth. As for the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front, we continue to pursue the dialogue and possibilities of political settlement. Our proposal for this settlement is well-known and consists of the following six items: settlement should be sought

among the citizens of El Salvador, without any interference from abroad; a provisional, pluralistic government in charge of preparing free elections should be established; a cease-fire should be agreed upon, but not as a precondition (as the Duarte regime would like, which would mean suicide for us), but as a result of a guaranteed democratization process; a just economic order should be set up; human rights should be respected; and a peaceful foreign policy line should be adopted. Along with these proposals, which are open to discussion with all political forces on the largest scale, we submitted a new initiative to the government. Since it is obvious that the achievement of peace in El Salvador is a distant goal and in order to alleviate the situation of the civilian population in the meantime, we proposed certain compromise solutions for humanitarian reasons. Thus, for example, we renounced sabotage against economic installations of the regime, which, in exchange for this, should stop the bombing of rural areas. However, even these proposals were not answered.

[Kudrinova] Do you think the peace process in Central America has real chances of success?

[Martinez] All peoples living in our area strongly desire it. However, the United States is against us. It is unwilling to recognize the new realities and to understand that we need our independence and free development, that we do not need any masters. The United States must begin to respect our right of free choice to decide upon our own fate, but obviously it is far from this approach. This became evident during the most recent events concerning Nicaragua. That country made numerous concessions in order to bring peace closer, but the United States opposed them, threatening intervention, which is bound to develop into a regional conflict in which the aggressor himself will be hopelessly engulfed. It is high time Washington became aware that we are small countries, but we do not fear threats. We struggle for our independence and are confident that with the strength of our joint efforts, we will be able to convince the United States to leave us in peace.

Guatemala

Government Turns Down URNG Truce Proposal

PA242222 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0134 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government today turned down a proposal for a Holy Week truce that the country's rebels presented publicly through the National Reconciliation Commission, CNR. The government, headed by Christian Democrat Vinicio Cerezo, justified its position by saying: "We are not at war here."

Msgr Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, president of CNR and the Guatemalan Episcopal Conference, formally presented the URNG proposal to the government. The prelate, who tried unsuccessfully to meet with Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo to learn the Armed Forces' position, said he had "contacted the government instead."

The URNG, asserting in the document that "war is a reality in Guatemala," proposed to the government a truce "between 0000 local time Sunday, 27 March, and 2400 local time Sunday, 3 April."

Quezada Toruno said: "We have offered to mediate. We believe the URNG General Command's proposal could serve to openly demonstrate a political willingness to reach an understanding." He added: "Of course, I think the Army would not start any fighting unless the rebels do. The difficult thing, however, is to verify compliance with the truce." He also said the CNR "does not have the logistical means for this verification," although "the Holy Week offers both an occasion and a motive to test the guerrillas' attitude." [passage omitted]

Julio Santos, the president's spokesman, said the government "has turned down the truce proposal because Guatemala is not at war." He added that the rebels "are represented by small groups that have already been annihilated in battle."

Honduras

President 'Pleased' With Sapoa Agreements

PA242321 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2214 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Today Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said that he is "pleased and happy" about the 60-day cease-fire agreement reached by the contras and the Sandinists in Nicaragua yesterday.

Azcona, who has followed the details of the Sapoa negotiations in press and television reports, feels that a fruitful dialogue between the armed opposition and the Nicaraguan official sector is vital to peace in Central America.

Today Presidential Palace spokesmen told ACAN-EFE that the president is "very happy" over the news from Nicaragua, and that he believes that if the agreements are respected, peace in Central America could then be sought in a more expeditious and proper manner.

The same sources added that Azcona "also hopes the Sandinist forces will cease to pursue their military objectives in Honduran territory, to avoid an outbreak of hostilities in the next few days." [passage omitted]

Government Protests Nicaraguan 'Violation'

PA242305 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2141 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (DPA)—It was announced today in Tegucigalpa that Honduras has protested to Nicaragua over the violation of its territory in two locations by approximately 400 Sandinist soldiers. This confirms the charges made yesterday at the United Nations by Honduran Ambassador Ramon Hernandez Alcerro. Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras sent a letter to his Nicaraguan counterpart, Miguel D'Escoto, pointing out that on Tuesday, 22 March, Sandinist troops entered Honduran territory through the Pico Espanol area in the border department of El Paraiso.

Simultaneously, 300 Nicaraguan soldiers crossed into the Bocay area, [name indistinct], Olancho Department, also on the Nicaraguan border.

The Honduran protest says "such acts of provocation and aggression worsen the already tense situation" at the border between the two countries. [Words indistinct] Honduras ordered two Air Force raids last week to force the Sandinists to withdraw from its territory. Honduras contended that 60 km of its territory had been invaded by Nicaraguan forces. [passage omitted]

Carlucci Remarks 'Surprise' Foreign Minister

PA242349 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1120 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Tegucigalpa on 23 March]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry informs the Honduran people that Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras today expressed to U.S. Ambassador Everett Briggs his surprise over remarks by U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, which were repeated by Michael O'Brien, spokesman of the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa. Carlucci said the main objective of the troops recently sent by the U.S. Government at the Honduran Government's request was to strengthen or protect the Nicaraguan rebels fighting the Sandinist regime.

The Honduran Foreign Ministry reaffirms to the ambassador that this Honduran request was based on the special security relations between the two countries and in view of the threat posed by the EPS incursions into Honduran territory.

This note asks the U.S. ambassador to clarify Carlucci's statements.

Nicaragua

'Concern' Over 'Cold' U.S. Reaction to Sapoa

PA250417 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0325 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco held a news conference this afternoon to explain the agreements reached in Sapoa. He said they represent the first step in what will be an extensive process of national reconciliation to achieve a permanent cease-fire.

Speaking at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, Dr Tinoco said the temporary 60-day cease-fire will permit negotiations for a permanent cease-fire. He added that the next meeting for this purpose will be held on 6 April in Managua.

The vice foreign minister stated clearly that with the implementation of the plans for the temporary cease-fire, which will be discussed on 28 March in Sapoa, the first 100 prisoners will be released on Palm Sunday.

Washington's cold reaction today to the Sapoa agreement has caused concern in the Nicaraguan Government, which sees that attitude as an effort by the Reagan administration to block the peace efforts in our country. Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said this tonight during a brief meeting with the press after learning of a White House statement that expressed doubts as to whether the Sandinists will comply with the Sapoa agreements.

Tinoco said that while Washington has expressed doubts about the commitments made shortly before midnight last night, Adolfo Calero, a leader of the counterrevolutionaries, has described the agreement as serious and viable.

Regarding the effort by a group of U.S. Democrats and Republicans to obtain a $90-million aid package for the contras, Tinoco said: Any aid for the contras other than the humanitarian aid provided for in the Sapoa agreement would be an obstacle to the fulfillment of that agreement.

Panama

Government To Pay With Promissory Notes

PA250205 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0028 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The national government has ordered the printing of a considerable amount of promissory notes of various denominations, which will make it possible to increase the activity of the Agricultural Marketing Institute.

In practice, the notes are to be used to pay farmers for grain and other food products. In turn, the farmers will be able to use the notes to pay taxes, debts to official banks, electricity bills, and other services offered by government agencies.

The printing of these notes should be completed this week. They will be signed by the comptroller general of the Republic and by the finance minister.

FDP Announces Promotions, New Assignments

PA250141 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0025 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Continuing the promotion plan aimed at transferring power from one generation to another, and in accordance with the letter and spirit of the provisions of Law 20, which regulates the activities of the Panamanian military forces, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff this afternoon released an official list of promotions and transfers.

In the FDP General Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Guillermo Wong was transferred to the G-2, Lieutenant Colonel Moises Correa to the G-3, Lieutenant Colonel Gerardo Garcia to the G-4, Lieutenant Colonel Virgilio Mirones to the G-5, and Lieutenant Colonel Aristides Hassan was appointed new inspector general of military zones.

Lieutenant Colonel Eros Ramiro Cal was appointed chief of the Jose Domingo Espinar military fort. Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro was transferred to the Combined Boar[illegible] Lieutenant Colonel Julio Ow Young has been appointed new chief of the Police Corps.

It is worth pointing out that from his position as a General Staff deputy chief, Colonel Alberto Purcell will continue to be the head of the FDP civic action and air activities. In addition, Colonel Elias Castillo, in his capacity as a General Staff deputy chief, will continue to supervise the land forces.

The following transfers between military zones have been made: Major Anibal Maylin has been transferred from Veraguas to the 2d Military Zone in Colon as chief; Major Marcio Herazo from Darien to the 4th Military Zone in Chitre as chief; Major Guy de Puy from the post of chief of the Presidential Guard to the 7th Military Zone in Los Santos as chief; Major Daniel Poveda from the Special Forces to the 3d Military Zone in Penonome as chief; Major Luis Martinez from the post of military attache in Guatemala to Darien as chief; Major Miguel Aleman from Cocle to Veraguas as chief; Major Arnulfo Castrejon from Los Santos to Chorrera as chief; Major Luis Valdes from Chorrera to the Military Engineers Company as chief; Major Ricardo Reyes Dutary from the post of presidential aide de camp to the post of chief of the Presidential Guard; and Major Abdiel Lamboglia from the Air Force to San Blas as chief. Captain Rodrigo Colon Sanchez was appointed new presidential aide de camp. Major Jose Hilario Trujillo has been appointed new general chief of the Panamanian Air Force.

Televisora Nacional has learned that Lieutenant Colonel Jose Santos Motta has been promoted to colonel and remains the military, air, and naval attache in Washington.

In conclusion, we report the promotions of Captains Anastacio Urena and Andres Espinoza to major.

Rights Group Says Coupist Officers Tortured

PA241933 Paris AFP in Spanish 2256 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Panama City, 23 Mar (AFP)—Today the Panamanian Human Rights Committee accused the government of torturing the military officers who were involved in a foiled coup attempt staged last week.

Committee President Osvaldo Velazquez said that Lieutenant Jeronimo Guerra was taken to the Santo Tomas Hospital in a state of "shock", after his testicles were beaten. He also showed "bruises all over his body and his fingers were crushed."

Hospital spokesmen confirmed "a Jeronimo Guerra" was hospitalized on 18 March, but they had no written diagnosis for his case.

Velazquez said he had unconfirmed reports that Leonidas Macias, coup leader and former Police Force Chief, and Major Cristobal Fundora were also tortured.

According to these reports, Fundora "stood in a courtyard and was ordered to cover himself with a U.S. flag and say he was a gringo," Velazquez added.

Eleven military men involved in the attempt to replace Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, are under arrest and the rest are "in hiding or in exile," said Velazquez.

Velazquez said that Panamanian Archbishop Marcos McGrath met Tuesday with members of the committee to "coordinate what we can do" for the prisoners.

A Defense Forces spokesman neither denied nor confirmed the torture, but suggested that Velasquez be questioned about "the human rights of the Panamanian people, who are going hungry" because of the U.S. boycott.

Report on Strike, Arias Calderon Return

PA250155 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2323 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 24 Mar (DPA)—On the 4th day of the general strike, there is the same paralyzation evident on previous days, compounded by the aggravating fact that protests have begun in poor neighborhoods of this city because of a lack of food.

Groups of nuns are trying to calm down families that went to the churches in a search for food and there was only rice, beans, and soup.

Meanwhile, as the deadline to pay 120,000 public servants passed, the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees (FENASEP) asked the government to do something for them. They even agree with the plan to issue paper money in balboas to replace the dollar, which is, in fact, the national currency.

In the neighboring Panama Canal Zone, U.S. Army maneuvers began their 2d day of intensive activity "to defend the canal from attack by an enemy country." These mock exercises last 6 hours each day and involve the participation of 3,500 troops. [passage omitted]

A top Panamanian Government official reported that David Miller, a top U.S. Embassy official whom the Panamanian state declared persona non grata and who yesterday had been given 48 hours to leave the country, left Panama today. Miller was accused of "meddling in Panama's domestic affairs."

It was reported that deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who will have completed 1 month in hiding somewhere in the city tomorrow, will issue a declaration to the Panamanian people on that occasion tomorrow.

The Cabinet Council, headed by President Manuel Solis Palma, met last night. It was reported that "it analyzed the country's situation thoroughly." [passage omitted]

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, the minority opposition party, returned to the country at noon following 5 weeks abroad. Hundreds of party members greeted him at Omar Torrijos International Airport. Later, a car caravan drove through Panama City's deserted streets.

Arias Calderon arrived accompanied by two FRG deputies, as well as Costa Rican Deputies Oscar Saborio and Juan Luis Delgado and Venezuelan Deputies Maria Bello and Rafael Rodriguez.

Arias Calderon said that "the events in Panama amount to a national tragedy." He issued a call to opposition groups to remain united and gave all his support to the CCN [National Civic Crusade]. Asked what would be a solution to Panama's crisis, he said: "The solution is simple: General Noriega must leave right now, today; that would solve everything."

Then he spoke about "the national reconstruction process that would follow Noriega's departure from Panama, something that would require approximately $750 million and an additional $500 million for social programs."

Arias Calderon added that "perhaps Noriega is afraid of leaving Panama for fear of being killed by drug traffickers."

He maintained: "I have faith in Panama; I have faith in the Panamanian people. The strike is a success, and the goal it seeks will be reached: the departure of this gentleman who is hurting the country so much."

There was great activity at FDP [Panama Defense Forces] headquarters this afternoon. An officer said that this was due to the fact that salaries were being paid in cash to cover the second pay period of March.

In addition, it was reported that Gen Noriega met with the FDP General Staff for more than 3 hours. At the Palace of the Herons (the presidential palace), President Manuel Solis Palma also met with some of his ministers this afternoon.

There was strict vigilance in certain strategic points of the city, particularly in water supply centers and the energy plants. [passage omitted]

The government was making efforts to distribute some food to poor neighborhoods.

Many Panamanians are commenting that "events/incidents are expected tomorrow, when it will be 1 month since Delvalle was ousted, an incident that quickly led to the country's present situation."

Arias Calderon Comments on Goals, FDP Role

PA241856 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0040 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of Panama's Christian Democratic Party, said during a news conference held in San Jose that General Manuel Antonio Noriega must go and must go now. Arias Calderon and his wife were not allowed to enter Panama upon his return from the United States. He was forced to come to Costa Rica. He will try to return to Panama tomorrow. He will be accompanied in this attempt by Costa Rican legislators Juan Luis Delgado and Oscar Manuel Saborio as well as by one Venezuelan and two FRG deputies. [passage omitted]

[Begin Arias recording] We have pledged to create a government of national reconciliation. It is not a matter of establishing any program of vengeance or or revenge. It is a matter of allowing the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]—the Panamanian military—to display an institutional integrity deserving of the people's respect and goodwill. We need a professional and constitutionalist FDP. There is no desire to destroy the military institution. On the contrary, the desire is to help it find its place within Panamanian society. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on Strike; Crusade Leader on Talks

PA241826 Paris AFP in Spanish 1728 GMT 24 Mar 88

[By Mike Gonzalez]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 24 Mar (AFP)—Without showing any signs of weakening, the nationwide strike against the Panamanian Government entered its 4th day today. Practically all businesses in Panama City remained closed.

There is very little traffic in the streets and very few people are walking in the downtown area. Some gasoline stations have remained open because of government pressures, said the opposition. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Aurelio Barria, leader of the National Civic Crusade, told newsmen at the Marriott Hotel that "everyday day we receive various types of messages that bring all kinds of proposals and ideas" from the government. He added that the government "is feeling the pressures of the sit-down strike."

Barria added that the messengers "have contacted various groups from the private sector...and specifically some professional groups to transmit the interest in a dialogue."

Barria commented that the opposition leaders in Washington— Gabriel Lewis Galindo and Jose Blandon—had sent a letter to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, promising that the future Panamanian Government would not bring Noriega to trial, but "the Crusade had not been consulted" on this proposal.

However, the opposition leader said that perhaps the letter reflected "principles of the Crusade."

"I believe it is clear that we will not reproach the country that receives Noriega," Barria added, explaining that "right now it is not a problem of a Panamanian extradition, but a problem of U.S. extradition."

In concluding, the leader of the Civic Crusade—which includes over 100 business and trade union organizations that have been demanding the departure of Noriega since last year—said that some gasoline stations remained open today in spite of the "success of the strike" because the Defense Forces made "strong threats" against the gasoline distributors and "intimidated" them.

Crusade Leaders Arrested in Bocas del Toro

PA242148 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1944 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The indefinite strike called by the Civic Crusade to force the ouster of Panamanian military head General Manuel Antonio Noriega today entered its 4th consecutive day. [passage omitted]

A Civic Crusade spokesman told ACAN-EFE that five of the group's leaders were arrested in Changuinola, Bocas del Toro Province—a province bordering Costa Rica—and taken to the local Defense Forces garrison.

The source added that the strike is 85-percent successful in Bocas del Toro, while the strike in Aguadulce and Penonome is 90-percent successful. [passage omitted]

Ex-Foreign Minister, PRD Leader on Situation

PM241414 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Mar 88 p 3

[By Bertrand de la Grange: "The Opposition Prefers Economic Suicide to Negotiations with General Noriega"]

[Excerpts] Panama—Now, 3 days after the start of the indefinite general strike which has paralyzed the country completely since Monday, 21 March, the Panamanian opposition—in other words mainly business circles—is determined to continue its protest until it has secured General Noriega's departure. Nothing now seems capable of halting the suicidal course on which the Panamanians are set, 9 months after the start of the trial of strength between the U.S.-backed opposition and the head of the Armed Forces.

"It is not a crisis our country is experiencing, it is a cataclysm," said Carlos Lopez Guevara, a former foreign minister who was also one of the negotiators of the 1977 treaty on the U.S. transfer of the canal to Panama. "It is rather like the last days of the Third Reich, although on our scale," according to this lawyer who is highly respected in Panama for his moral integrity. "I can imagine Hitler discussing his defense plans in his bunker and discovering the scale of the disaster. He committed suicide. Well, Noriega and Solis Palma (the president of the Republic imposed on the Panamanians after the ousting of Eric Delvalle on 26 February) are also living in an imaginary world. They are not aware of the despair and anguish being experienced by Panamanians, rich and poor—who do not even know whether they will have something to eat over the next few days. In 3 weeks Solis Palma has succeeded in increasing the unemployment rate from 20 to 30 percent of the working population: It is a record for such a short period!" [passage omitted]

"We support Noriega because he is defending Panama's sovereignty against U.S. interventionism," Elvia Miranda de Ortiz, a Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] leadership member, told us. "He could have said to the United States, as other Central American countries, particularly Honduras, have done: Give me 50 million dollars and I will guarantee that your military bases can remain after the year 2000. The opposition is now saying to us: Give us power or we will destroy everybody. But they will give up first because they have more to lose than us, because the survival of their enterprises is threatened. We will have to hold out for another month to force them to ease their pressure."

There is not one Panamanian who dares to envisage the present situation continuing for another month without igniting serious social unrest. The number of armed attacks and burglaries has increased over recent weeks. The poorest people are trying to find food for their families in any way they can. Charity organizations have set up soup kitchens and are distributing sacks of food in some districts. Because it has no cash, the government is trying to pay its employees in kind, but most refuse to accept the "dignity" rations, as the authorities call them. Despite threats of being fired by their employer, many civil servants are supporting the strike by staying at home.

The serious nature of the crisis does not seem to be undermining Gen Noriega's optimism. "I have nothing to say to the United States. I am talking to the Panamanians," he told the press with a broad smile on Tuesday. "The United States is responsible for what is happening here. It wants to create a new Vietnam, and we are fighting the last anticolonial battle." In fact, the general is not fighting any battle at present and his soldiers are patrolling almost empty streets.

And yet, there is still hope of reaching a negotiated solution, and, despite his boasts, Gen Noriega has taken an initial step—although a very timid one—by offering to leave his post before the elections, provided a "national dialogue" is started with the opposition. This proposal, which was announced on Monday, is, however, accompanied by a precondition: The resignation must be "the result of a national dialogue in which all the country's political forces would take part." The opposition, suspecting a trap, immediately rejected this offer: "Conditions are not right for dialogue," the opposition party leaders all replied: "Several of our leaders are in exile, our newspapers have been banned, a state of emergency is in force, and the Army is in the streets." But elections are not scheduled until May 1989: Does the general intend to remain at his post and run in the elections? The opposition still prefers the existing chaos, although it will have to rebuild the country afterward.

Protest Held at U.S. Embassy; Vigil Planned

PA250109 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0010 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The U.S. Embassy here in Panama was picketed this afternoon by a group of approximately 200 men and women. The demonstrators, including Humberto Lopez Tirone, director of the Digedecom [General Directorate of Community Development], shouted anti-U.S. slogans and put up placards demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops from our country.

There was no violence during the picketing. The demonstrators will stage a vigil in front of the U.S. Embassy tonight.

Ministry Raps U.S. 'Psychological Warfare'

PA250220 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0055 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Panama City on 24 March]

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has received irrefutable proof of an unprecedented incident on Saturday, 19 March, when approximately 40 U.S. correspondents were taken to the headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command to receive an in-depth background briefing. During this briefing they were told they should help remove the Defense Forces commander in chief. Navy Lieutenant Lawrence Peter—an expert in psychological warfare who was accompanied by four U.S. colonels—also released information aimed at distorting the Panamanian situation. The Panamanian Foreign Ministry feels this action is new evidence of the direct aggression against the Panamanian Government and of psychological warfare against the Panamanian people. Through such special military briefings, the Pentagon's office in Panama promotes turning U.S. and other foreign correspondents into instruments of psychological warfare with results that, aside from affecting Panama, undermine the U.S. people's freedom of knowledge and weaken their political freedoms.

Article 1 of the agreement for the implementation of Article 4 of the Panama Canal treaties clearly and emphatically states that U.S. Armed Forces members must refrain from all political activity in the Republic of Panama and from interfering in Panama's domestic affairs.

The Foreign Ministry reiterates the illegal presence of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama and its overt use for destabilization. It protests and condemns the way in which the U.S. Armed Forces are hindering Panama's safety and the integrity of the U.S. press by manipulating the news based on distortion, absurd lies, and the deceitful fabrication of incidents and happenings. This is in keeping with the plan to dominate or subjugate the Panamanian Government and people to perpetuate the presence of U.S. military bases in Panama beyond 31 December 1999.

The way the Panamanian situation has been presented by the U.S. media and its use in the U.S. electoral campaign makes it clear that there is a threat of similar actions not only to the countries in the area and to countries hosting U.S. military bases, but also to any nation that could be considered a presidential campaign trophy of that northern power.

The Panamanian cause has been strengthened before the eyes of the world, because this monstrous action proves to what extent every aspect of Panama's current crisis, from the very beginning of the slander campaigns through the current threat of using military force against Panama, can be blamed on the United States.

Panama City, 24 March 1988

Assembly Condemns U.S. 'Economic Terrorism'
PA250047 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2315 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Legislative Assembly has charged that the United States is "brutally and inhumanely" violating human rights in Panama.

A resolution signed by Legislative Assembly President Alberto Aleman Boyd says the United States has "unleashed against Panama the most terrible economic terrorism ever known."

According to the Assembly's Public Relations Office, the resolution was unanimously approved. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Labor Minister Warns of Holy Week Uprising

PY241800 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli has warned of a new destabilizing action on 30 March, citing the graffiti throughout the country which states that the anniversary of Aldo Rico's 16 April uprising will be celebrated next 30 March.

Tonelli also believes that the attitude of Saul Ubaldini, CGT [General Confederation of Labor] secretary general, calling for a nationwide strike in April, creates an atmosphere of instability. However, he said he does not believe this is Ubaldini's real intention. By his attitude, Tonelli said, Ubaldini is trying to recover his lost role within the Justicialist Party. [passage omitted]

Defense Official on Antigovernment Broadcast

PY251125 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (DYN)—Tonight a Ministry of Defense official dismissed rumors of an alleged proclamation against the government, reportedly broadcast by a clandestine Buenos Aires radio station last night.

After a meeting with Army generals today, the official said regarding the alleged coupist-toned broadcast that they "are not part of an operative campaign" to destabilize the government. He made no further comments on the incident.

According to today's accounts of the incident, last night neighbors of Pompeya neighborhood and ham radio operators heard a broadcast from the self-styled "Armed Forces Restoration Command" to the strains of a military march.

Today government spokesmen minimized the incident. UCR Deputy Cesar Jaroslavsky, however, said that "a psychological campaign has been mounted" to commemorate the first anniversary of the Army rebellion known as the "Holy Week Uprising."

Jaroslavsky told journalists accredited at Congress that he does not dismiss the possibility that Army officers are working "from underground" with "some support from the media." He called this section of the media "spokesmen of the Argentine right."

Alfonsin 'Satisfied' With Group of 6 Meeting

PY242039 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1400 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (NA)—Today President Raul Alfonsin said he was "very satisfied" with the results of the meeting of specialists of the so-called Group of Six here. The president met with the representatives at Government House this morning.

The Mexican representative, Ambassador Alfonso Garcia Robles, who told the media that they had made a "courtesy call" on the president, was the one who reported Alfonsin's satisfaction.

Garcia Robles was accompanied by the representatives of Greece, Khristos Macheritsas; India, Chinnay Garekhan; Sweden, Hans Dahlgren; Tanzania, Anthony Yaki; and the World Organization of Legislators [Organizacion Mundial de Parlamentarios], Relus Ter Beek, Nicolas Dunlop, and Olafur Guimsson.

A representative of the Argentine Foreign Ministry warned the journalists that the representatives of the Group of Six would not make any statement regarding the subjects discussed during the meeting because they have to inform their respective presidents or governments beforehand.

Garcia Robles would only say that Alfonsin was "very satisfied" and that they had paid him a "courtesy visit."

The group met to draft a document related to the verification of multilateral agreements on disarmament. The group will try to get this document approved during the third special session on the subject the UN General Assembly will hold in June.

Correction to Economy Ministry Preparing Plan

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Economy Ministry Preparing New Economic Plan," published in the 23 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 24:

column two, paragraph one, line four: ...to the IMF, Argentina is committed to a fiscal surplus of approximately 1.2 percent of the GNP.

According to the newspaper, the IMF could approve a system of annual programs with inspections every 6 months. In this case,... (rewording)

Bolivia

President Reaffirms Regaining Sea Outlet Goal

PY241501 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0355 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] La Paz, 23 Mar (EFE)—Today, speaking at the main ceremony to mark the "Day of the Sea," Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro said his country maintains its resolve to regain an outlet to the Pacific Ocean.

Paz Estenssoro said that as long as Bolivia's century-old landlocked situation is not overcome, the world will have a conflict to resolve.

"The entire nation unswervingly maintains its resolve to regain an outlet to the sea," the president said, urging an "imaginative effort" to change the current landlocked situation.

The president said that as long as Eduardo Ayaroa, the Bolivian hero of the War of the Pacific (1879-83), "keeps reminding us of his exclamation, refusing to surrender, the aggressors will be unable to finally consolidate their victory."

"No matter how long it takes, let's remain certain that we will overcome our landlocked situation, which amputates our sovereignty and hinders the country's economic development," Victor Paz concluded. [passage omitted]

Central Bank on Purchase of Private Debt

PY232147 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 18 Mar 88 p 1, 9

[Text] Bolivian Central Bank Manager Fernando Kempff Bacigalupo has told PRESENCIA that the renegotiation of the portion of the foreign debt Bolivia has with creditor banks—the country's toughest creditors—will be carried out in two stages: first, the repurchase of the Bolivian foreign debt by the country, and second, "face-to-face" negotiations. This stage will be the most difficult one and the debt here will be paid for with internal savings.

The first stage, which began in 1987, consists of the purchase by Bolivia of $306 million at 11 percent of face value. The Bolivian debt with banks totals $970 million—the principal reaching $670 million and interests $300 million.

On 12 March, creditor banks announced their willingness to sell $306 million of their debt to the Bolivian Government: $252.2 million for cash and $39.9 million in exchange for Bolivian "investment bonds." A total of $15 million is "condoned" by Dutch members of the foreign creditor's club.

This means that creditor banks will sell $292.1 million in exchange for cash and bonds.

According to the authorities, the first stage, consisting of the purchase of the debt with cash and "investment bonds," can be reinvested in private, mixed, or state enterprises, in any of the productive sectors, or cashed at will.

The Bolivian Government will need $27.7 million in cash and $4.4 million in certificates or "investment bonds" to purchase the $32.1 million to carry on the purchase and has requested a 1-month postponement of the deadline to seek other donations.

It must be recalled that the country intends to purchase the debt with donations, according to the agreement signed with the banks.

Even though the information is "confidential," Energy Minister Fernando Illanes, a main promoter of the purchase of the debt, said the government already has 15.7 million for that purpose.

The second stage consists of "face-to-face" negotiations, which means Bolivian authorities will have to travel to New York to discuss with creditor banks the terms and interest rate of payments.

Kempff Bacigalupo considers this to be the toughest stage because the government has to "renegotiate" $364 million of the total debt with 58 creditor banks.

Interest is not taken into account for the purchase in cash and with bonds because once the capital is paid off interest disappears, Kempff said.

However, we have to recall that Finance Minister Juan Cariaga has said renegotiations will include discussions on $300 million in overdue interest.

Kempff told PRESENCIA that the country will have to use part of the domestic savings to pay off the debt renegotiated in the second stage.

Senator Comments on Power of 'Narco-Dollars'

PY241447 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0452 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] La Paz, 23 Mar (EFE)—The president of the Senate Commission of Prevention and Struggle against Drug Trafficking, Senator Juan Luzio, today reported that the dollars coming from drug trafficking are destabilizing and endangering the Bolivia economy.

"The government and congressmen know that drug trafficking is helping to destabilize the economy," Luzio said. Senator Luzio is member of the ADN party, which is allied to the ruling MNR party.

Luzio said that drug trafficking brings $900 million [a year] into the country, although of this amount, he said, only $300 million is seen to enter the national economy.

He said that what worries the executive and legislative branches most is not the "injection" of "narco-dollars" but the fact that, at an investment rate of $300 million per year, the drug traffickers will control the national economy in 5 years.

This situation, he said, may give the drug traffickers "unprecedented" power.

Brazil

Military Deny Report on Possible Coup Attempt

PY251133 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The Army Social Communications Center [Centro de Comunicacao Social do Exercito] has described as invention a report published by a Rio de Janeiro newspaper stating that the Army was preparing a coup.

According to the daily, the coup would have been carried out if the Constituent Assembly had approved a presidential government system with a 4-year term for President Jose Sarney.

The Air Force Social Communications Center has reacted in a similar manner saying that the report is an imaginative exercise of the Rio de Janeiro newspaper.

Navy Minister Enrique Saboia did not even wish to comment on the report. He said he only speaks about matters related to his area of responsibility.

Nobrega: Government Ready To Take Measures

PY240255 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Upon arriving from Venezuela, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega announced that after the victory in the Constituent Assembly the government is ready to take measures to cut government expenditures and to stop public deficit. These measures may be submitted to President Sarney during his meeting with the finance minister tomorrow.

Nobrega stated that these measures will affect the salary of government employees, tax exemptions, and subsidies, but he did not talk about dates. According to Nobrega, the society must get ready for hard measures.

[Begin Nobrega recording] We do not expect unanimity toward the measures to be addopted, and this is as it should be in a democratic process. There is no unanimity in a free system, but we expect important sectors of the Brazilian society, such as businessmen, workers, and politicians, to support these measures that are essential to putting our houses in order and to paving the way for steady national development. [end recording]

Constituent Assembly Deputies Leave PMDB

PY241150 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Some of the Constituent Assembly's decisions do not please a group of Minas Gerais deputies. The approval of a presidential system of government with a 5-year term in office for the president has prompted a group of eight [figure as heard] deputies to abandon the PMDB to form the Social Democratic Party [Partido Social Democratico].

Eight Minas Constituent Assembly members announced that today they formally left the PMDB. According to Deputy Pimenta da Veiga, the ideological principles of his new party will be social democratic. The new party will maintain a clear (?position) regarding all matters affecting Brazilian society. He said it will be a modern party in which primary elections will be held to elect its candidates.

The deputies who left the PMDB are: Pimenta da Veiga, Celio de Castro, Carlos Mosconi, Mauro Campos, (Ziza Valadares), Carlos Cotta, and Roberto Brant.

Project for Alleged 'Pirate' Computer Canceled

PY241507 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Mar 88 p 22

[By Ramona Ordonez]

[Text] The decision of the Special Secretariat for Information Science (SEI) to cancel the Unitron Company project for the manufacture and sale of the MAC-512 microcomputer in Brazil will help the Brazilian-U.S. talks in connection with the U.S. threat to take retaliatory measures against Brazilian products. This information was disclosed yesterday by Luis Rangel de Castro, who represented Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre at the opening session of the second international software, data transmission [telematica], and information technology congress at Riocentro. Rangel admitted that the Unitron project, which according to a charge leveled by Apple is a pirate copy of its Macintosh computer, is on the agenda of the talks between the two countries.

Science and Technology Minister Luiz Henrique da Silveira, who also attended the congress, denied that the cancellation of the Unitron project was one of the U.S. conditions for lifting the retaliatory measures and stressed that the SEI decision was based exclusively on technical matters. SEI Executive Secretary Kivas Chaves Weber explained that the project was canceled because Unitron did not comply with the commitment to avoid selling the computer before the project was approved.

Unitron, which has already taken legal action against the SEI decision, may also appeal before the National Data Processing and Automation Council (CONIN), or even submit a new project.

Kival Weber said the project was canceled because Unitron sold the microcomputers before the project was approved.

Chile

Foreign Ministry on Bolivian Sea Outlet

PY242002 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci has said that Bolivia cannot talk of a landlocked situation while it makes bad or little use of the port facilities that Chile and other countries have placed at its disposal.

Ducci was referring to Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro's declarations in La Paz during celebrations commemorating the Day of the Sea yesterday.

Carlos Ducci recalled that the Bolivian press has recently reported the bad use Bolivia makes of the free port facilities in Rosario, Argentina. Ducci also recalled that Chile has offered Bolivia initiating a process of integration between the two countries, and stressed that the border was definitely settled by the 1904 treaty.

Ducci added the Chilean Government believes it is high time for Bolivia to drop this revisionist attitude and join Chilean efforts to advance in the process of an effective integration, seeking the well-being of their peoples.

Government Voices 'Concern' Over C. America

PY232138 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] In an official communique, the Chilean Foreign Ministry has expressed concern about the latest developments in Central America and reiterated once again its unrestricted endorsement of the principle of nonintervention.

The communique adds that Chile has observed with special concern the latest developments in the Central American region. In this respect, the Chilean Foreign Ministry believes it is extremely important to promptly find a solution to the serious Central American problems and, to this end, it feels it will be paramount to apply, at every stage, those rules of international law governing relations among all American countries.

In this regard, the Chilean Foreign Ministry has once again stated its unrestricted endorsement of the principles of nonintervention, of refraining from the use of and from threatening to use force, of finding a peaceful solution to international controversies, which are—among others—the pillars of the inter-American system.

The communique notes that if these principles are not observed, no peace effort will succeed and no progress will be made in achieving political and socioeconomic development in the region.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry communique concludes by stating that Chile endorses the calls made to the parties by the international community and by expressing Chile's support for any initiative aimed at seeking peace and stability in the region and preserving freedom and sovereignty.

FPMR on Consequences of U.S. Nicaragua Action

PY241616 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1452 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Santiago, 24 Mar (EFE)—The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) has warned the U.S. Government that "any armed intervention in Nicaragua" will lead the FPMR to attack U.S. property and facilities in Chile.

In a communique the FPMR warns about a possible attack on Nicaragua, saying that if that occurs the FPMR will "consider U.S. facilities and property, as well as U.S. companies in our country, as targets of our actions."

This Chilean leftist organization, which claimed responsibility for the attack on General Pinochet in 1986 and the kidnapping and later release of an Army colonel, indicated that "the deployment of 3,200 U.S. soldiers to Honduras is a preparatory step for direct military intervention in Nicaragua."

Reportage on Plebiscite Comment, Actions

Interior Minister Remarks

PY250237 Santiago Television Nacional in Spanish 0030 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] The interior minister has said that for the opposition, a victory of the no vote would be tantamount to a rupture with the prevailing institutional system. He added that if the no vote wins, it will inevitably lead to political anarchy, social disorder, and insecurity.

The interior minister discussed what will happen if citizens either approve or reject the plebiscite. He did this in view of the opposition's interpretations of the eventual results of the plebiscite.

Sergio Fernandez said the political opposition has undertaken a campaign of slander and disinformation, which will lead to the adoption of illegal and subversive means that are unacceptable within a free democracy.

He added that the opposition has tried to use to its own advantage a statement that Government Junta members made by changing the obvious meaning of the statement. Citing a statement that a possible victory of the no vote does not imply chaos, the opposition has tried to show that this statement supports the opposition position that the no vote is tantamount to outright rejection of the institutional system that has been approved by all Chileans.

He added that the opposition has drafted its own concepts about the meaning of the no vote by virtually establishing a parallel constitutional regulation in this regard. In addition, it has stated that the Armed Forces and the forces of order could not maintain their present condition, and that in view of this it has planned to democratize them, that is, to transform them into an armed branch of a proletarian dictatorship.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The virulence and insolence of all these statements, and others that would take too long to describe, show that for the opposition the victory of the no vote is tantamount to outright rejection of the prevailing Constitution and of the established timetable.

In view of this, we must state that if citizens favor this option, in keeping with what has been described by the opposition, it will necessarily lead to political anarchy, social disorder, and insecurity. All of these circumstances have been clearly described by the opposition.

The meaning that the opposition sector has granted to the eventual victory of the no vote clearly shoes that Chile will be submerged in chaos, legally, politically, socially, and economicaly.

Therefore, no one should believe that this option and interpretation will not lead to disorder at all national levels and that it does not pose a serious threat to our national development.

The rupture with the prevailing institutional system that lies hidden in the opposition plans shows the serious irresponsibility of those who oppose the present institutional system. This also shows the difficult paths Chile will have to tread if this position succeeds. [end recording]

Finally, the interior minister said that citizens must understand that the opposition position will lead to an atmosphere of instability and insecurity. He added that he thought it proper to make this statement on the abusive and unconstitutional way in which the opposition is distorting the present political situation, in view of the important decisions Chileans must make soon.

Monitoring Group Created

PY241943 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The National Electoral Command for Democracy [Comando Electoral Nacional por la Democracia] has been established. Its goal is to monitor the upcoming plebiscite. This process is aimed at reducing the possibility of fraud. The Electoral Command comprises 10 parties, including the Christian Democratic Party, the National Democratic Party, the Humanist Party, the Republican Liberal Union, the National Party, the Party for Democracy, the Silva Cima-led Radical Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Nunes-led Socialist Party, and the Socialist Popular Party.

The Electoral Command's executive board is made up of (Eric Campana), Sergio Navarrete, and Vicente Riffo. Arturo Rojas was elected executive secretary.

(Eric Campana) has said that currently the Command is conducting a thorough analysis of the constitutional aspects of the plebiscite and of voter registration. [passage omitted]

Media Threats 'Increasing'

PY250255 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1553 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 24 Mar (EFE)—Today, Jaime Moreno Laval, the president of the Santiago Journalists Association, reported to a daily that as the date for the plebiscite approaches, the threats and the pressure against journalists are increasing.

Moreno Laval told the Santiago morning daily FORTIN MAPOCHO that this month, "the courts have strangely enough became very active and have stepped up legal proceedings for alleged offenses against the Armed Forces."

Moreno Laval was talking about the charges filed against Francisco Herreros, the director of CAUSE magazine, who is under arrest; Monica Gonzalez, a journalist for the weekly ANALISIS; and Jorge Donoso, the former director of FORTIN MAPOCHO.

According to Moreno Laval, the fact that the opposition news media exists in Chile does not mean that there is press freedom in the country. "If freedom of information, which is advocated even by the bishops, is not guaranteed, nobody can say that the plebiscite will be legal," Moreno Laval stated.

He added that "an electoral law, about which we know very little, cannot state that freedom of information will be established just 30 days before the plebiscite. That would mean nothing because for 14 years there has been no freedom."

Before the end of the year, the Chilean military junta, which is made up of the commanders in chief of the three branches of the Armed Forces and the Carabineros general director, will submit for the plebiscite the name of the presidential candidate for the next term in office.

PSD Expels 2 Infiltrated 'Communists'

PY232140 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Two communists who had infiltrated the youth branch of the Social Democratic Party [PSD] have been discovered and immediately expelled from the PSD. [passage omitted]

PSD General Secretary Levian Munoz said the two PSD youth leaders had been under suspicion for a long time. [passage omitted]

The two leaders are: Eduardo Matamala, who recently became paranoid and fled to Venezuela. From there, he went to Moscow to receive instructions on how to continue to undermine the PSD ranks. The other is (Luigi Schioka), who went to Havana to receive instructions from Fidel Castro, the leading promoter of terrorism in Latin America. [passage omitted]

In a meeting held in recent hours, the PSD National Executive Board decided to officially recognize the Federico Voglio-led board as the only legitimate leadership of the PSD youth branch. [passage omitted]

Police Arrest Leader of PCCh Combat Unit

PY232305 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The Investigative Police Homicide Squad has arrested Samuel Antonio Robles Reynoso, a 29-year-old leader of a PCCh combat unit, as he was trying to flee the country.

Robles, Alias Jaime, who perpetrated several bomb attacks, will be placed at the disposal of the first military prosecutor. The police confiscated equipment intended for terrorist actions from Robles' residence. [passage omitted]

Dynamite Sticks, Detonators, Fuses Found

PY240041 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] A total of 200 dynamite sticks and 20 detonators and fuses were found in the Mercedes mines Nos 1 and 2 in Combarbala, Limari Province, in the 4th Region.

The materiel was found by miners who were working near [names indistinct]. The dynamite sticks were found in a hole in the ground, while the detonators and fuses were scattered around.

The miners informed the Ovalle Carabineros forces about their find. Members of that force went to the site to collect the explosives by orders of the corresponding judge on duty.

Investigations have started to determine the origin of these explosives. It is not hard to picture what they were going to be used for.

Colombia

State Council Cancels Arrest Orders for Cartel

PA242134 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Report by Luis Arturo Baez]

[Text] The decision of the State Council to suspend the arrest orders against members of the Medellin Cartel has caused national controversy. The State Council decision states that because the extradition treaty with the United States is not valid, it is absolutely illegal to order arrests with the aim of extraditing to the United States those detained.

The State Council acknowledged today that the measure annulling arrest orders issued by the Colombian justice minister against alleged drug trafficker Pablo Escobar is a decision made at a closed meeting, not an open meeting. This means it is not a binding decision, and the government has the right to file an appeal.

[Begin State Council President Martinez recording] The 1979 treaty is still in force. Because it is legal internationally—in other words, the U.S. Government considers it legal—this treaty is binding on Colombia from an international law standpoint. However, the law that made the treaty valid inside Colombia—that is, the law approving the treaty—was twice declared invalid by the Supreme Court of Justice. Therefore, the treaty is not valid under Colombian law, although it is valid internationally. [end recording]

The justice minister today said the government will appeal this decision, because it has certificates proving the validity of the Montevideo Treaty. Until the State Council's open meeting decides on the arrest orders, the authorities will not try to track down Escobar.

According to the State Council president, as the situation stands, and according to the opinion of legal adviser Samuel Buitrago, the government must resubmit the extradition treaty to Congress or draw up a new treaty with U.S. authorities, if the United States wants to extradit Colombian citizens.

[Begin Martinez recording] As it is now, the treaty will perhaps face some problems at the Chamber of Representatives and Congress. Perhaps the best thing to do would be to sign a new extradition treaty with the United States. [end recording]

Paraguay

Minister Says Ortigoza Seeking Refuge

PY250248 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Mar 88 p 11

[Text] Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro this morning discussed the case of Captain Napoleon Ortigoza, who has taken refuge at the Colombian Embassy

and requested political asylum. Montanaro said: "the situation of Mr Ortigoza, who according to some people has served longer in prison than anyone, is that of a condemned criminal who has served his prison term and is under police protection due to health problems. His condition was so severe that even his children and his wife abandoned him. We put him under house surveillance to prevent him from committing some madness, as he is mentally unbalanced."

Montanaro added: "Ortigoza managed to leave his house to seek asylum at the Colombian Embassy yesterday with the help, advice, and intervention of a well-known criminal called Hermes Rafael Saguier. He sought refuge because a person who is not being persecuted cannot seek asylum. No arrest warrant has been issued against him. He is not being persecuted by the police. Nobody wants to arrest him. We put him under house surveillance for his own protection and at the request of his mother and daughters, who thought he was unbalanced and wanted protection from him," Montanaro stressed.

Montanaro also said that Ortigoza "went to the embassy and the ambassador told him that he was a refugee. He cannot be given political asylum. There is no refugee status at the diplomatic level. We reassert that no arrest warrant was issued against him. We do not want to arrest him. We are protecting him, and if the embassy wants to protect him, it can do so or take him whenever it wants. We do not have anything to do with him. We are only concerned about his personal security and that of his family that practically abandoned him. His mother wanted to leave her house because of the inflexible behavior of her son, which broke up the family."

Montanaro stated: "It is now up to the government to decide what to do." Asked if Ortigoza might leave the country, he said: "he can do whatever he wants and his relatives allow. His health is not good enough for him to leave the country. His state of health is delicate and this problem is creating some difficulties for us."

Regarding the attitude of Saguier, who is accompanying the refugee, Montanaro described it as "pure complicity and a quest for the limelight, that is what this very unruly and dangerous attitude of Saguier amounts to," Montanaro concluded.

Peru

Envoy to Panama Returns After Consultations

PA242334 Paris AFP in Spanish 1848 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Mar (AFP)—It has been officially reported that Javier Ortiz de Zevallos, Peruvian ambassador to Panama, returned to Panama today to reassume the diplomatic post "he had temporarily left" when the Panamanian political crisis broke out.

On 1 March, President Alan Garcia's government recalled Ortiz de Zevallos for consultations when the confusing Panamanian situation reached its critical point, and his absence was to last "until things cleared up a little."

Dynamite Charges Explode in Plaza de Armas

PA241903 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1811 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Report by Patricia Vonn]

[Excerpts] Two powerful dynamite charges exploded near Plaza de Armas [the main square in Lima]. One of the charges went off at the door of Lima Cathedral and the other exploded at the corner of Caraballa and Plaza de Armas.

Logically, this incident caused great uncertainty among the people who were in the area at the time of the explosion. The two charges exploded at 1305. They exploded almost simultaneously.

Meanwhile, extreme security precautions have been taken at the Government Palace. All doors into the Government Palace have been closed including the Desamparados and Francisco Pizarro Street doors.

Similarly, the authorities ordered the complete evacuation of the Plaza de Armas. There are still some people around the area, but there is a large police presence. Many policemen have been posted in the area to avoid greater disorder. [passage omitted]

A few minutes ago, the police reported that 50 INDUMIL [Military Industries of Peru] workers caused disturbances around Plaza de Armas. Demonstrators set off two dynamite charges near Caraballa and Goyaga [Streets].

It has also been reported that three people were arrested. There is also a deputy at the police station. Police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators. The people who were detained were taken to the San Andres 2d police station.

Cabinet in Session

PA250303 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0209 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Mar (REUTER)—The police have arrested three people suspected of having thrown dynamite bombs in front of the Government Palace today while President Alan Garcia was meeting with the cabinet.

Eyewitnesses told newsmen that the shock wave destroyed large display windows and caused panic among the few passers-by and employees in businesses located close to the explosion. The sources said four

bombs exploded simultaneously as Civil Guardsmen were using water cannons and tear gas to disperse employees of a military enterprise who have been on strike for the past 35 days.

Jorge Reyes Roca, director general of the Peruvian Investigative Police, told the press that three suspects have been arrested and are being held at the Antiterrorism Directorate.

"No injuries have been reported," the police chief said. He declined to attribute the attack to the Maoist Shining Path group.

Reyes Roca added that the bombs exploded in the doorway of a store [words indistinct] some 100 meters from the Government Palace. Reyes Roca was attending President Garcia's customary Thursday meeting with the cabinet at the Government Palace.

The striking workers expressed the opinion that the attack may have been carried out by Shining Path guerrillas or members of the Marxist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

Three Soldiers Die in Shining Path Ambush

PA250349 Paris AFP in Spanish 0036 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Mar (AFP)—Today police sources reported in Lima that three soldiers died and eight were wounded in a terrorist ambush of an Army convoy this Wednesday in a mining area of the central Andean region.

This attack, which has not been confirmed yet by the military command, has been attributed to the Maoist Shining Path, which yesterday downed five electric towers in the same region. As a result, the city of Huancayo, 250 km east of Lima, was left without power. With this new attack, the casualty toll in insurgent actions this year in Peru has climbed to 236, according to police statistics.

The ambush of the 18-man military patrol took place yesterday evening near the mining town of Goyllarisquizga, 245 km northwest of Lima, a Civil Guard report said. The 20 to 30 attackers opened fire from several directions on the Army truck carrying the soldiers. After the initial confusion, the soldiers repelled the attack and chased off the subversives.

The eight wounded soldiers were taken tc the Pasco City Hospital, 34 km from the site of the ambush. According to the police, a woman from the Shining Path group was wounded. The police have no other report on any other rebel casualties.

Huancayo authorities have reported that last night's dynamite attack on five electric towers has affected the Mantaro hydroelectric system. The blackout ended at noon today with the activation of an emergency backup system.

The police have reported they defused bombs in two Lima movie theaters. The Antiterrorist Brigade has announced that 17 Shining Path guerrillas charged with ambushing a military patrol in February in the Andean region of Huancavelica, 325 km southeast of Lima, will be brought to Lima either today or tomorrow. Twelve soldiers in an Army patrol died in that attack, one of the most serious Shining Path actions against the military. The 17 guerrillas were arrested during military and police operations in Huancavelica. According to reports, the authorities seized weapons and many explosives from the subversives.

Today the Peruvian media reported statements by a former guerrilla and former deputy, Hugo Blanco, according to whom the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement are doomed to failure because they do not have the total support of the Peruvian peasants. Blanco, who was an insurgent in the 1960's and is no longer involved in politics, acknowledged that his rebel movement also failed due to a lack of support from the peasants.

Soviet Air Force Delegation Arrives in Lima

PA250434 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0250 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Mar (REUTER)—A delegation of 10 Soviet Air Force experts arrived in Lima to meet with high-level Peruvian aviation officials.

It was not reported officially how long they would stay or what their mission in the Peruvian capital was.

The delegation arrived on an Aeroflot flight and was received at Lima's Jorge Chavez Airport by high-ranking Peruvian Air Force officers. The Soviet Defense Ministry delegation is headed by General Gennadiy Sled [name as received].

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Praises Nicaraguan Cease-Fire

PY241726 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Uruguay has reacted to the news of a cease-fire in Nicaragua. President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who is in Madrid, gave the position of the Uruguayan Government on this issue at the conclusion of the luncheon with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

In a news conference held at noon today in Madrid, President Sanguinetti labeled the cease-fire reached between the Nicaraguan Government and the contras as a positive step toward peace in Central America.

Sanguinetti, who last night arrived for a visit, said that our country praises the agreement between the Nicaraguan Government and the contras because it allows conditions for the effective implementation of the agreements on Esquipulas II.

In an improvised news conference at the Moncloa Palace, President Sanguinetti and Felipe Gonzalez praised the cease-fire reached by Managua and the contras. [passage omitted]

Government Supports Panamanian Meeting Call
PY241403 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0417 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Montevideo, 23 Mar (EFE)—Today a spokesman of the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry officially reported that Uruguay supports the proposal made by Panama calling for a meeting of SELA to study the economic measures implemented by the U.S. Government against Panama.

The spokesman added that the decision was made after consultations with Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano, who is in Madrid with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who is on the way back from an official visit to the Soviet Union.

The Foreign Ministry reported that the meeting of the SELA council will be held on 28 March in Caracas.